Freedom of Information Act 2000
&
Environmental Information Regs. 2004 response.

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Chatham,
ME4 4TR.
Email: gdpr@medway.gov.uk

Our Ref:FOI003945
Date: 13/06/2025

Response to your Information Request.

Dear requester,

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or Environmental Information Regulation 2004). Your request for information and the council's response is as follows:

Request:

Question – A full list of feedback, ideas, and criticisms submitted during the "Love Gillingham" workshops, including any ranked or prioritised lists used internally.

Answer - A full report of the 3 'Love Gillingham' workshops including the feedback, ideas and criticisms raised by participants has been created by Design South East. It has been shared with the community panel participants who attended to ensure they have had opportunity to confirm it is an accurate record of the events. The report will be publicly available on the Medway Council website in July.

A Vision and Action Plan document has been developed following the workshops, and this includes lists of potential projects suggested by the community panel and their priority projects. This document is currently in a final review stage following feedback from the community panel members at the draft stage. The report will be publicly available on the Medway Council website in July.

There will be a launch event on Saturday 12th July (date to be announced shortly), where both the consultants and community panel members will present the work so far to the wider public followed by a workshop session for the local community to consider how they could get involved and support the process of change. Paper copies of the documents will be available at this event.

Question - Any documentation showing which ideas have been dismissed, delayed, or marked "not feasible," and the specific reasons why.

Answer - No ideas have been dismissed at this stage, all are included in the report.

Question - **Details of any internal or external evaluations that suggest whether the "Love Gillingham" campaign is considered successful, tokenistic, or largely symbolic.**

As the campaign is not yet complete, no evaluation has been undertaken. However, the feedback forms from the community panel participants were all positive and the majority of participants wished to be involved in the delivery of any future projects.

Question - A list of all agencies, consultants, or external companies contracted to deliver or support the campaign — including the costs paid to each.

Answer - BPTW and Design South East were successful at winning the tender for the Love Gillingham project in July 2023. The value of the contract was £45,762.50 and was paid to BPTW. An additional sum of £3500 was paid to BPTW to cover the preparation and delivery of the 12th July launch event which was out of scope of the original contract. All costs were funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Question - Clear information on the council's next steps following the workshops — what projects are being taken forward, when, and by whom.

Answer - The final workshop will be held on Saturday 12th July as part of the launch event with the wider public able to attend and become involved. Part of the workshop will include looking at next steps for mobilisation of projects. It is anticipated that some projects will commence this financial year.

Governance for the ongoing future of the community panel needs to be established to ensure that the community continue to have a relationship with Medway Council and oversight and ownership of their community led vision and action plan.

Question - A list of investment companies, developers, builders, or commercial partners that have shown interest or signed agreements as a result of the campaign — including homebuilders, construction firms, retail operators, or conglomerates. If no firms have engaged with the council as a direct result of this campaign, please confirm this explicitly.

Answer - The Gillingham Taskforce is already engaging with numerous external partners, for example Kent Police, Mid Kent College, Gillingham Football Club, Royal Engineers, Network Rail, Community Organisations and local businesses and will continue to do so. The Taskforce will further widen stakeholder engagement, and an initial meeting with such external stakeholders has been scheduled for October to further facilitate this.

Question - How many of the campaign's outcomes have been turned into formal plans, budgeted proposals, or planning applications since the panel was established?

Answer -None as yet, as this is too early in the process. We expect some initial projects to complete in 2026.

I trust this information is to your satisfaction, however, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of information Governance,
Medway Council, Gun Wharf,
Dock Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 4TR
freedom@medway.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted

at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Your sincerely.

Anjuli Strange

Placemaking Regeneration Manager